

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 1, 3-16, 18-32, 36-37, and 41-43, and respectfully submits that this Reply puts the present application in condition for a Notice of Allowance.

Claims 38-40 were rejected. Applicant hereby cancels same.

Claim 44-63 were also rejected. On January 8, 2009, a telephone call was had between the Examiner and the undersigned, where there was discussion about making an amendment to have such rejected claims made dependent from allowed independent Claim 41. The Examiner suggested during the call that the Examiner would be amenable to having such rejected claims ultimately dependent from Claim 41. Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time for this discussion.

Accordingly, Applicant hereby amends Claims 44, 46-49, 52-53, 56, and 59-60 (and cancels claims 57-58) such that each one of Claims 44-56 and 59-63 ultimately depends from allowed independent Claim 41. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 44-56 and 59-63 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowed independent Claim 41.

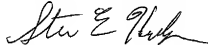
In preparation for a Notice of Allowance, Applicant further requests entry of amendment to Claims 10, 11, 36, and 46, which is made for purposes of antecedent basis / consistency. Also, amendment is made to the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections to all pending claims and the mailing of a Notice of Allowance. Should there remain any questions or other matters whose resolution could be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at his number below. The Examiner is

authorized to charge any fees associated with this Reply, charge any underpayment, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503571.

Respectfully submitted,

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